

it raises another policy issue. And whether or not some support for community colleges should be coming from local sources, and I think you could make that case as well and should not be decided on an amendment at this point.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Kristensen on the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Will. And I would urge the members of the body if this comes to a vote, I would urge most of you to be not voting because no matter which way you would vote on this, you're going to send the wrong message. And here's how it occurs, when we were in committee, the levy limits started off, I believe, Senator Warner, if I remember right, it was nine, then it was going to go to six. The amendments then went down to take them to seven, to six. We had another consideration and went back to eight because of the average levy and in some consideration of Western. And we decided that we'll make it, we'll take them back to eight for the first and then ratchet, basically, down to four. And the policy choice here is, do you tell the community colleges, we're going to take you over on a state basis, or are they going to make that decision for themselves and say, look, it makes more sense for us to have, perhaps, a mix of property tax and of General Funds. Or maybe it forces us and their representative, regardless of what you may think of him, was very candid with the Revenue Committee in saying, that's a tough decision we may have to make. We may have to sit down with our board and make some discussions that we don't want to look at, and that is, do we want to be state funded? Do we want to be with the, under the Coordinating Commission? Do we want to enter into that? Because there's some security in that, and particularly for those in Western, that's a real tough choice. And so the reason that it is eight and four, or now I guess this would take it down to, basically at the end of that period of time they become state, you today, some six years ahead of time are going to make a policy choice the state's going to take over the community colleges. In six years, who knows what those community colleges may look like. And so if you vote yes to do this, you're making a decision for six years down the line, and that sends the message to the community colleges, don't look at making any changes, all you got to do is ride the storm out to 2002. If you vote no you're going to send the message that the state doesn't want you. And then what they're going to do is buckle down and try to ride out